

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NSC-10 L-03 DRC-01 /069 W

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R 081535Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5751

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT TD

SUBJECT: WILLIAMS REEMERGES

REF: POS 1306

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS HAS EMERGED FROM MONTH LONG VACATION TO DISCUSS CALL FOR HIM TO RECONSIDER HIS ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO LEAVE PUBLIC LIFE. END SUMMARY.

2. SPECULATION THAT PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS MAY RECONSIDER HIS ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF RETURNING TO PRIVATE LIFE HAS GAINED CONSIDERABLE IMPETUS OVER LAST FEW DAYS. TWO HOUR MEETING WITH INTER-RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION (IRO) YESTERDAY UNVEILED WILLIAMS FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HE DISAPPEARED A MONTH AGO ON "VACATION" (DURING MUCH OF WHICH HE WAS IN REALITY WORKING ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS AT HOME).

3. FRESH FROM TWO LONG SESSIONS WITH GOVERNOR-GENERAL SIR ELLIS CLARKE, IRO REPRESENTATIVES SAW WILLIAMS TO DISCUSS THEIR LETTER TO HIM OF LAST FRIDAY, CALLING ON HIM TO "PILOT OUR AFFAIRS"

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THROUGH PROCESS OF PUBLIC DEBATE, BY ALL SECTIONS OF THE

COMMUNITY, OF THE UPCOMING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, AND THROUGH THE PREPARATION OF ELECTIONS TO FOLLOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE PROCLAMATION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION. DESCRIBING T&T'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STATE IN RATHER ALARMING TERMS, THE IRO OFFERED THEMSELVES AS "INSTRUMENTS OF RECONCILIATION". WILLIAMS WAS REPORTED TO BE GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE IRO'S POINTS.

4. IF, AS MANY THINK, WILLIAMS HAS BEEN SEEKING A CLARION CALL TO REMAIN AS T&T'S INDISPENSABLE MAN, HE HAS FOUND AN IMPRESSIVE CAT'S-PAW IN THE IRO, FOR THE ORGANIZATION GROUPS ALL THE NATION'S SIGNIFICANT RELIGIOUS BODIES (ALTHOUGH THE HINDU REPRESENTATIVES APPEAR READY TO PULL OUT OVER THE LETTER AND THE CATHOLICS ARE NOTABLY IN THE BACKGROUND ON THIS ONE). THE IRO'S EMPHASIS ON RECONCILIATION, PRESUMABLY WITH NUFF AND OTHER "UNCONVENTIONAL" GROUPINGS, CANNOT, HOWEVER, BE TOO APPEALING TO DR. WILLIAMS.

5. WILLIAMS HAS NOT SIGNED HIS CONSENT PAPERS AND REPORTEDLY DOES NOT INTEND TO RUN FOR PNM POLITICAL LEADER, ALTHOUGH HE CLEARLY WOULD LIKE TO BLOCK HUDSON-PHILLIPS. BEYOND THIS, SPECULATION HERE RUNS RIOT, WITH ONE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT HOLDING THAT WILLIAMS WISHES TO BE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC SLATED TO EMERGE FROM CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. WE SHOULD HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF SITUATION BY NOVEMBER 18, WHEN THE PNM GENERAL COUNCIL WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TO CONSIDER THE NOMINATIONS BY LOCAL GROUPS FOR PNM POLITICAL LEADER.

6. COMMENT: SINCE ONLY WILLIAMS KNOWS HIS NEXT MOVES, WE ARE INCLINED TO RESERVE JUDGEMENT ON WHAT ACTUALLY IS GOING ON, PARTICULARLY SINCE POLITICAL FORCES OF ALL TYPES HAVE BEEN UNLEASHED BY RECENT EVENTS THAT WILLIAMS MAY NO LONGER BE ABLE TO CONTROL. ABOUT ALL WE CAN SAY AT THIS POINT IS THAT HE APPEARS TO BE VERY MUCH BACK ON THE POLITICAL SCENE.
MOFFAT

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